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The Army's EO Program and Policies



Lesson 14: White American Experience

Overview

- Define White-American as defined by DOD Dir. 1350.2
- Describe the origins of White American and the different groups in Colonial America
- Define the different types of immigration and the impact on individuals
- Explain European American common experience and displacement
- Define Redemptioners



Definition

WHITE-AMERICAN
(not of Hispanic origin)

Is a person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, North Africa, or Middle East



Original White Americans

- North Africa related to the Berbers
 - Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, and Libya
- Northwestern Europe
 - Belgium, Denmark, England, France, Germany, Ireland, Netherlands, Norway, Scotland, Sweden, Switzerland, and Wales
- Southwestern Europe
 - Austria, Czechoslovakia, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Rumania, Spain, USSR, and Yugoslavia



Definition

ANGLO-SAXON AND WHITE ANGLO-SAXON PROTESTANT (WASP)

Is a person of a Caucasoid, northern European, largely protestant stock whose members are held by some to constitute the most privileged and influential group in US. society. In the new-world, they were the landlord and their culture and values with rare exception, were those that defined the culture.



Basic Culture and Values

- Handwork- craftsman
- Perseverance - The new world will survive
- Self-Reliance
- Puritanism - Self worth, handwork and success as it's own reward, mission to make the world a better place
- Missionary spirit - Own religious beliefs
- Abstract rule of the law
- Consider themselves founders, settlers, and planters verse immigrants



Immigrant

- Defined as one who settles permanently in a foreign country or region
- In colonial America, those who arrived in America following the Revolutionary War were considered immigrants
 - **BRITISH-AMERICANS**
 - **CANADIAN-AMERICANS**
 - **FRENCH-AMERICANS**
 - **DUTCH-AMERICANS**
 - **GERMAN-AMERICANS**
 - **IRISH-AMERICANS**
 - **ITALIAN-AMERICANS**
 - **POLISH-AMERICANS**
 - **MIDDLE EASTERN-AMERICANS**



Colonial America

- Foundation: English/England
- Englishman had no desire to lose their English's
 - Build a better England
 - One that would be free of the imperfections of their native land
 - One that would give them greater opportunities for personal happiness



Colonial America

- Puritans and Pilgrims
 - **Sought out the wilderness to be truly free of European decadence**
 - **Their Ideology:**
 - **Protestant Faith**
 - **Diligent application to work**
 - **Individual accomplishment**
 - **Anglo-Saxon legal heritage**
 - **Written compact**
 - **English Language**



Colonial America

- Influences - Factors that influenced the way of life of new arrivals
 - **Learning from those already here**
 - **The environment they found**
 - **Traditions they brought with them**
- Divergence from the “Homeland” - Three main reasons for divergence
 - **English society not transplanted as a whole**
 - **New World- unfamiliar environment**
 - **Countries other than England**



Colonial America

- Puritanism
 - Puritanism remained affected the outlook of most Americans for many generations in the form of attitudes that were real though hard to define
 - **Sense of duty**
 - **Hard work and success as its own reward**
 - **Mission to make the world a better place**



Colonial America

- Non-English Groups - Colonial immigrants who came to be considered native born
 - **Scotch-Irish -250,000 constituted the largest non-English protestants**
 - **German-200,00 the second most significant European minority**
- Non-Protestant Groups
 - **98% of colonial America belonged to one protestant sect or another. 1.4% embraced Roman Catholicism, 0.12% embraced Judaism**



Early Americans Common Traits

- Idealism
- Flexibility
- Adaptability to change
- High respect for personal achievement
- Dependency on self and immediate fame versus wider community
- Tendency to conform to the values of peers and neighbors versus stubbornly clinging to traditions or ancestral ways



European American Common Experience/Displacement

- Immigrant Experience- Reasons for immigration to America
 - Religious persecution freedom of worship
 - Political oppression refuge from tyranny
 - Economic hardships - Factors most compelling factor for most immigrants
 - American letters the most powerful selling point, letters were passed from family to family, published in newspapers, discussed in church



European American Common Experience/Displacement

- The Voyage - this presented travelers with unanticipated hardships
 - Saving money for passage
 - Saying good-bye to family and friends
 - No guarantees the ships would sail, extra days=\$\$
 - Long time on ship that were overcrowded and disease ridden



European American Common Experience/Displacement

- America's conscience and servitude
- Indentured Servitude - Most common way of getting to the colonies
 - **Outlawed in 1820, printed contracts were common as early as 1636**
 - **Normally for four years**
 - **"Freedom Dues" Money, clothes, land at the end of the contract**
 - **Often auctioned off to highest bidder**



Redemptioners

- **Developed in 1708 when Swiss and Germans begin to emigrate**
- **Emigrants traveled to many ports and paid tolls**
- **Money was gone by the time they reached shipping ports, shipper took what was left giving two weeks to get the money to “REDEEM” themselves: Those who couldn’t pay were sold into servitude (2 yr.)**
- **CONVICT LABOR: Most colonist thought poorly of the servants, “Useless there = Useless here”**
- **THE DILEMMA: The same men that saw the disparity between the ideals of democracy, convict and indentured labor, condoned slavery**



Immigration

- Immigration Waves
- Immigration Acts and Laws
- Assimilation
 - Language
 - Mass Media



Contemporary America

- **Contemporary America**
 - **Family Patterns-** despite changes the White American family has remained nuclear
 - **Educational Patterns-** Constant theme of textbooks is national unity rather than diversity, culture of ideas
 - **Poverty-** Although the poverty rate for whites was lower than that for other groups the majority of poor persons in 1990 were white (66.5%)
- **Current Status of White Americans (1989 census)**
 - 249 Mil. total Americans 84% (209 Mil.) were white
 - Not projected to grow as much as other groups



Summary

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- Defined Redemptioners

